

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sheldon Landsman on 22 June 2010.

The application has been amended as follows: Claim 3 is amended to depend on claim 2. The amended claim 3 should read as follows:

3. (currently amended): A method for producing the roundish fused alumina particles according to claim 4 ~~2~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the method comprises removing edges of fused alumina particles by means of a jet mill.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-8 and 15-17 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: It is in the opinion of the examiner that the art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious "wherein the roundish fused alumina particles have.... a roundness of 0.85 or more" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in the independent claim 2.

The closest prior art is U.S. Patent No. 5,888,258 which discloses grinding a material down in a jet mill. However it does not disclose a specific roundness or that the

particles are fused alumina. U.S. Patent No. 6,139,990 discloses using a jet mill to round particles (column 4, lines 4-5 and column 5, lines 10-11). However the particles are graphite not fused alumina.

Regarding claims 15-17, these claims are allowable as these claims positively recites their dependency on claim 2, which is allowable for the reasons stated above, and therefore these claims include all the steps of the allowed method of claim 2.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew G. Katcoff whose telephone number is (571) 270-1415. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3725

/M. G. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3725
06/22/2010